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THE CONTRIBUTION 4-H CLUB WORK HAS MADE TO FARMING
AND THE FARM LIFE OF THE NEGROES

A radio talk by J. B. Pierce, Field Agent in Negro work, Hampton, Virginia, delivered in the 4-H club program, National Farm and Home Hour, Saturday, May 15, 1934, and broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

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The contribution 4-H club work has made to farming and the ~~farm life of the~~ negroes is one of the outstanding achievements in rural life. Many of the 4-H boys and girls have greatly relieved their parents of phases of work on ~~the farm~~ and in the home, and the practices in addition have been very much improved as a result of 4-H club work. The following achievements during 1933 will give some idea of the effectiveness of 4-H club work:

Edna Taylor, of Montgomery County, Md., fourteen-year-old club girl, did food and clothing work. In her food project she made muffins and biscuits 30 times, milk dessert 25 times, a salad each week, canned 55 quarts of vegetables and fruits, and 15 glasses of jelly and 4 quarts of pickles. She exhibited 15 jars of products at the club's achievement day and won ten first prizes and five second prizes. In clothing she made in club meetings one dress, one nightgown, and two slips. For homework she made over two dresses, one new dress, and two pairs of bloomers. She also made two towels from feed sacks. She has learned how to use and care for a sewing machine, how to use patterns, and how to care for her clothes. She gave three demonstrations in club meeting, one in "Making Salads," "How to Care For One's Clothes," and "How to Can Corn." All the sewing done in club meeting and one of the dresses were put on exhibit. She won three prizes for sewing and was awarded a gold seal for her State certificate, which she had won in 1932.

Ten 4-H club boys in Jessamine County, Ky., organized a pig growing contest on April 4. The pigs were not to be fattened but kept in a healthy, growing condition, the boy feeding and growing his pig at the least cost to be the winner. On April 4 the 10 pigs averaged 72 pounds, and on July 4, three months later, they averaged 122 pounds. Feed cost practically nothing as it consisted of kitchen slop and grass, the boys being unable to buy grain and other pig feed. Three prizes were awarded at the close of the contest, the decisions being based on, first, increased weight at the close of the contest, and second, on papers read by the boys on "How I Fed My Pig." The successful contestants were Robert Steel, Preston Dixon, and Joe Warren, winning first, second, and third prizes, respectively.

Helen Bailey, of Randolph County, W. Va., lives nine miles from town. She attends a one-room school, and has been a 4-H club member for four years, doing work in sewing and canning. Her mother is dead, and she, being the eldest of her father's children, takes care of the family in preparing the meals and doing general housework. Her club work in sewing has enabled her to save her father's small earnings by making clothing for herself and her sisters, and she has also guided them with their club work. Her work in canning is outstanding, 340 quarts of vegetables and fruit from the garden and orchard having been saved through her knowledge of canning. Through her leadership the boys and girls in school are able to enjoy a hot dish at noon. The teacher had not done club work before, but Helen had been in club work for three years and was, therefore, very valuable to the teacher in directing social and project activities. At the close of school the teacher informed the club agent that the 4-H girls would not be able to exhibit project work at the fair as in former years due to incomplete work. A few weeks later Helen called the girls together and got them to promise to meet with her once a week to work on projects. They did, and in six weeks, eight completed their work. All exhibited at the fair. Helen completed the fourth year's work in sewing. Each year she has exhibited work, receiving blue ribbons each time.

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Another illustration of the value of 4-H club work is found in the story of Shester H. Maxwell, of Davidson County, Tenn. He joined the 4-H club in 1919 at the age of ten, and remained a member until 1929. During the ten years he conducted ten projects; namely, three purebred pig projects, two grade Jersey calf projects, three corn projects, and two market garden projects. For four years he was president of his club, and is now a club leader. He saved from his club work and from prizes won at fairs on club products grown by him a total of \$150, which he invested in three colts, two calves, and an acre of ground. At the end of his club career he rented 25 acres of land and started farming for himself. "Ches", as he is known, owns at present two horses, one mule, two cows, one market wagon, and enough farming implements to do good truck farming. He also owns one acre of land upon which he built this year a five-room house at a cost of \$800. He says that it will take less than \$100 to pay all his debts. His property, livestock, and farm implements are valued at \$1,500. His plan for 1934 is to buy 50 acres of land. He says that club work is largely responsible for his interest and success in farming. He was married on August 1, 1933.

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